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SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" About a year ago, there was a proposal before the Government to construct a bridge across the Palayangadi ferry. The Government postponed this work pending a decision by the Central Government on the realignment of the road. Now that the Central Government have taken a decision on the matter and as it is said that the road passes through Taliparamba, will the Government be pleased to take up the construction of the Palayangadi bridge? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The Palayangadi bridge does not lie on the alignment passing through Taliparamba. The bridge work lies on Baliapatam-Cherukunnu-Madayi-Cheruthayam road which is now in charge of the Malabar District Board. Hence the work has to be taken up by that district board."

Maintenance and lending of power-boring sets.

* 1199 Q.—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state— 12-10 p.m.

(a) the total cost of the power-boring sets with the Government;

(b) the annual expenditure by way of repairs and replacements of those sets and by way of salaries to the staff in charge of them;

(c) for how many days during the years 1950–51 and 1951–52, those sets were actually used; the actual expenses incurred during the said period and the income thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that the sets are kept idle for most of the days in a year for want of spare parts in carrying out minor repairs, and competent hands to carry out the repairs; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to help the ryots by lending the sets whenever and wherever they are required?

" Sir, I submit the word ' cost ' in part (a) of the question should be ' number '."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Rupees 13,25,713. That is the answer for the original question. I have not got the answer to the revised question.

" (b) & (c) The expenditure varies from year to year. The expenditure incurred was Rs. 41,067 in 1950–51, Rs. 55,245 in 1951–52 and Rs. 86,234 in 1952–53. The drills worked for 150 days in 1950–51 and 137 days in 1951–52 on an average. The income earned was Rs. 15,619 in 1950–51 and Rs. 28,223 in 1951–52.

" (d) The drills are not idle for long periods for want of spares, etc. To a certain extent, it is true that competent hands are lacking for carrying out repairs because most of the officers of the department are new and are gaining experience.

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"(e) The sets are distributed all over the State and a certain number is earmarked for each district. Seventy-five per cent of the drills are earmarked for agricultural purposes only. In cases where only one drill is working in a district it is allotted entirely for agricultural purposes. They are made available to applicants in accordance with the priority lists drawn up by the Collectors. By this arrangement the ryots get overall preference over other categories of applicants."

Bathing facilities in the sub-jails in the State.

* 1200 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state how many sub-jails there are in this State and how many of them have facilities for bathing in privacy?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" Total number of sub-jails in the State is 158. Of these, 15 have facilities for bathing in privacy."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP:—" Sir, it being a disgrace in 1954 and in the Fifth Year of our Republic to allow undertrials, both males and females, to bathe in the open, will Government issue immediate instructions to erect at least temporary bath rooms and provide this simple amenity?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" Women are not allowed to bathe in public, Sir." (Laughter.)

Ratio of upper and lower division clerks in the Registration department in the Malabar district.

* 1201 Q.—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) how many upper division clerks have been allotted to the Registration department in the Malabar district for every 100 clerks of the lower division; and

(b) how many clerks in the Registration department in the South Kanara district resigned during 1952–53 and 1953–54?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN:—" (a) Total numbers of lower division clerks in Malabar district comprising the Registration districts of Kozhikode, Palghat and Tellicherry are 255 (permanent) and 16 (temporary).

Number of upper division clerks allotted to Malabar district is 3, i.e., one upper division clerk for each Registration district.

" (b) One during 1952–53.

Three during 1953–54."